

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH  
CENTRAL DIVISION

In re:	)	
	)	
UNITED STATES OF	)	
AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	Case No.
	)	2:16-CR-00631DAK
AARON MICHAEL SHAMO,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
	)	
-----	)	

BEFORE THE HONORABLE DALE A. KIMBALL

August 14, 2019

JURY TRIAL

Trial Testimony of:

Alexandrya Tonge

Katherine Bustin

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1 Salt Lake City, Utah August 14, 2019

2 (8:38 a.m.)

3 THE COURT: The jury is here. Are we ready  
4 to proceed?

00:41:07 5 MR. GADD: Yes, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: All right. We'll get them. The  
7 witness may resume the stand assuming she is here.

8 MR. STEJSKAL: She is here, she is just in  
9 the other room.

00:42:23 10 (Jury returned.)

11 THE COURT: Good morning ladies and gentlemen  
12 of the jury. Thank you for being here. Thank you  
13 for being prompt. We appreciate your work.

14 You may proceed, Mr. Stejskal.

00:42:59 15 MR. STEJSKAL: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 (Whereupon, Ms. Alexandrya Tonge resumed  
17 the witness stand having been previously  
18 sworn.)

19 **CONTINUED DIRECT EXAMINATION**

00:43:00 20 BY MR. STEJSKAL:

21 Q. Ms. Tonge, we were talking yesterday a little bit  
22 about the financial arrangements and I believe you  
23 said your pay from Mr. Shamo increased over time; is  
24 that correct?

00:43:18 25 A. It is.

1 Q. And you said you were paid in cash but there were  
2 also other methods with which you were paid?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And let's specifically refer to Venmo. Were you  
5 ever paid by Venmo?

6 A. Yeah, on a couple of occasions.

7 Q. Tell me what Venmo is?

8 A. It is an electronic form of receiving money. So  
9 you can send it from your bank account to someone  
10 else's user name and they can transfer it to their  
11 personal bank account.

12 Q. So instead of handing cash, it is some kind of  
13 electronic transfer?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Okay. Let's pop up Exhibit 16.02. Can you see  
16 that there in front of you?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And in the left hand column there do you see your  
19 name in several places highlighted in blue?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then there are payments in another column  
22 that says debit. Do you see those?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And then in the column next to that there are  
25 some comments do you see those, too, like halfway

1 down the page "obey my dog"?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Can you tell us what that is about?

4 A. Just funny comments that he would add to the  
5 message that he was sending with the money.

6 Q. So they're not really what it's about, it is just  
7 kind of funny comments then?

8 A. Correct, yeah.

9 Q. What are those payments for?

10 A. Um, for either payment for just normal or  
11 reimbursement for purchasing things at the post  
12 office.

13 Q. And by payment "for normal", what do you mean by  
14 that?

15 A. Um, what he would pay us to do, what we were  
16 doing shipping out drugs.

17 Q. Okay. So basically wages for your work?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And those \$500 amounts there in the middle in  
20 September of 2015, is that kind of a normal payment  
21 you would have received at that time for your work?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Let's go to the second page. There is a few more  
24 down there, there is a 625, another 500, do you see  
25 those?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Again, are those consistent with payment for your  
3 work?

4 A. Yes.

00:45:39

5 Q. Then there is some totals at the bottom. Do you  
6 see next to your name there it says, total for you  
7 5,950. Were you making that kind of money over the  
8 course of this?

9 A. Yeah, it seems about right.

00:46:00

10 Q. You said some of this might have been  
11 reimbursement for other things?

12 A. Yeah, purchasing postage, priority stamps at the  
13 post office if we needed to do that.

14 Q. So sometimes you would do that with your own  
15 money and get reimbursed?

00:46:12

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. By whom?

18 A. By Aaron.

19 Q. And how would you communicate with him to get  
20 reimbursed?

00:46:19

21 A. Through telegram to let him know this is what we  
22 spent so if you could send that.

23 Q. And would he always pay you back?

24 A. Yeah.

00:46:29

25 Q. Now, you're aware that there was cash seized from

1 your home on November 22nd of 2016?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Approximately \$19,000 or 19,500?

4 A. Yes.

00:46:45 5 Q. What was that cash from?

6 A. Payments from Aaron for doing what we were doing.

7 Q. So that money came in cash and sometimes you guys  
8 just stored it away there at the house?

9 A. Yeah.

00:46:57 10 Q. If we can look at 11.00, photo 6. So that is in  
11 your home?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. In the bedroom?

14 A. Yeah.

00:47:15 15 Q. Is that Ms. Bustin's drawer or yours?

16 A. Ms. Bustin's.

17 Q. Okay. And then let me see, there were the --  
18 let's look at 23, picture 23. Do you see the money  
19 in the nightstand drawer there?

00:47:39 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. That was also in your home. And then  
22 picture 24. And that is your side, your nightstand?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. So that was just money you had around?

00:47:54 25 A. It wasn't deposited. We were just kind of



1 keeping it.

2 Q. You had spent some of the money that Mr. Shamo  
3 paid you over the course of these events too,  
4 correct?

00:48:05 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So you made money off of this, your role in this  
7 operation, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you see pictures of or hear about the money  
00:48:18 10 taken from Mr. Shamo's home?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And do you recall roughly how much that was?

13 A. Over a million in cash.

14 Q. Did you and Ms. Bustin have anywhere near that  
00:48:27 15 amount?

16 A. No.

17 Q. How come you guys didn't have that much?

18 A. I wasn't even remotely aware of the amount this  
19 was bringing in.

00:48:45 20 Q. Were you in charge of the money?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did money come directly to you from customers?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did Bitcoin come directly to you from customers?

00:48:55 25 A. No.

1 Q. Let's look at Exhibit 23.07. This is your  
2 Statement in Advance of Plea of Guilty or essentially  
3 your guilty plea. Do you recall that?

4 A. Yes.

00:49:22

5 Q. And did you, in fact, plead guilty to every  
6 charge against you in this case?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. Did you go over that with your attorney?

9 A. I did.

00:49:34

10 Q. And did you enter that guilty plea with a full  
11 understanding of what you were doing?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was there any specific sentencing agreement that  
14 you would get probation or you would get no jail or  
15 you would get ten years or anything like that?

00:49:46

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you agree to testify truthfully in any  
18 hearing or case that came up in this matter?

19 A. Yes.

00:50:02

20 Q. Why did you decide to do that?

21 A. I knew what we were involved in was wrong and we  
22 had made poor choices and I just wanted the  
23 opportunity to own up to that.

24 Q. Okay. Do you also have hope that the judge will  
25 consider this in determining what your punishment

00:50:22

1 will be from this?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Have you testified truthfully?

4 A. Yes.

00:50:38 5 Q. It was also part of the agreement that you  
6 wouldn't be charged with any death that resulted in  
7 this case; is that correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Now, you knew nothing about that during your  
00:50:49 10 participation, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. It's also true that you have no stake in the  
13 outcome, correct?

14 A. Correct.

00:51:00 15 Q. Doesn't matter what happens as long as you tell  
16 the truth?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You expect to get sentenced after this is over,  
19 correct?

00:51:08 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. After this trial is over?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did you have other consequences other than this  
24 criminal charge because of your involvement in this  
00:51:19 25 case?

1 A. Yeah, um, I lost my job.

2 Q. That was at eBay?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You were essentially fired?

00:51:27 5 A. Yup.

6 Q. Why did they say they did that?

7 A. Just our involvement in this case.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Um, I received a general under other than  
00:51:39 10 honorable discharge from the military.

11 Q. And the military was important to you, correct?

12 A. (Witness crying) extremely.

13 Q. Very important to you. You served six years  
14 honorably?

00:52:08 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you were also going to school to become a  
17 helicopter pilot; is that correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. That is gone as well?

00:52:18 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So there have been consequences already from your  
22 actions in this?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you expect additional consequences from your  
00:52:26 25 sentencing?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. After reflecting on this and kind of  
3 understanding the scope of all that was involved in  
4 this organization, you have empathy for others who  
5 may have been affected by this?

00:52:39

6 A. Yeah, absolutely.

7 Q. Tell us about that?

8 A. I wasn't, you know, fully aware of the alteration  
9 of the drugs and what was being sent and sold as  
10 something else. And when we found that out November  
11 22nd when we were interviewed, and talking to  
12 Homeland Security and the post office inspector, they  
13 told us the severity of what was being used and I  
14 felt badly.

00:52:54

15 Q. Let's talk about a couple more things. Let's  
16 look at Exhibit 14.30. Here is the first page. Can  
17 you tell us what that is?

00:53:26

18 A. Yeah. An order sheet. It looks like for Xanax  
19 bars.

20 Q. Is this -- this is just one page but is this a  
21 typical order sheet as they came to you?

00:53:50

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. From Mr. Shamo?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Let's look at Page 862. If you can look at that

00:53:58

1 bottom entry there what does that say?

2 A. It says "sale of Roxy or Oxycodone".

3 Q. And how many?

4 A. Ten.

00:54:19 5 Q. And in what strength?

6 A. 30 milligram.

7 Q. Were these always 30 milligrams?

8 A. Yeah, I think so.

9 Q. Okay. And what does that postage part mean?

00:54:30 10 A. They paid for priority mail.

11 Q. And what is the name at the bottom there?

12 A. Gregory Lee.

13 Q. If we can go to the very next page. There at the  
14 top, that is a continuation of that address?

00:54:47 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So did you and Ms. Bustin send a package to that  
17 if you were fulfilling these orders?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And again, that date looked like June 6th of  
00:54:58 20 2016?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. I'm going to hand you next what has been marked  
23 or admitted as Government's Exhibit 11.05. Can you  
24 tell us what that is?

00:55:26 25 A. Sheets of tracking information from packages that

1 were sent out and then a customer name notated next  
2 to it to know what tracking was assigned to which  
3 customer.

00:55:42 4 Q. While we're looking at that, can you pull up  
5 11.00, Page 9, please. If you could highlight by the  
6 glove there? On the screen is essentially the same  
7 thing maybe not the same page, but the same thing  
8 you're talking about there?

9 A. Yes.

00:56:01 10 Q. Again, what are those?

11 A. Tracking numbers from the postage that was used  
12 for a package that was sent out and a customer name  
13 notated in the exhibit.

00:56:16 14 Q. Explain that to us. It looks like stickers, the  
15 black part?

16 A. Yeah. So it was a tracking number that could be  
17 used with priority mail and you can pull one part of  
18 the sticker off and put it on the package and then  
19 one part is for your reference to reference the  
00:56:28 20 tracking on that shipment.

21 Q. And then on the end of that it looks like  
22 handwritten names?

23 A. Yeah. My handwriting, um, writing names of the  
24 customers that that tracking number referenced.

00:56:40 25 Q. What was the purpose of keeping this information?

1 A. To know if there was an issue with a package that  
2 was sent if it didn't arrive or it arrived.

3 Q. So if there was a problem somebody gave you a  
4 name you could reference these sheets and figure out  
5 the tracking number for that order?

6 A. Yes. Yup.

7 Q. Looking at 11.5 in front of you, there is a  
8 column that is going up and down as it is facing you.  
9 Can you see that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What's the first name in that first column on  
12 your left?

13 A. Gregory Lee.

14 Q. And is there a tracking label next to that?

15 A. There is.

16 Q. And what does that indicate to you?

17 A. That that package was shipped out.

18 Q. Thank you. And let's next look at Exhibit 18.01,  
19 photo 8. Do you recognize that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What is that?

22 A. That was the first stages of sending out packages  
23 with a return address and a name that was random and  
24 then a "to address" referencing the order that was  
25 given to us to ship out.



1 Q. So in the upper left, that Erin Sandoval, that's  
2 the return address?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. That is just a name that you made up?

00:57:59

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Or came up with in some way?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But the "to", that's the actual customer?

9 A. Yes.

00:58:05

10 Q. That the drugs were sent to?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. Thank you. Let's try to understand your  
13 role. Did you organize this operation?

14 A. No.

00:58:20

15 Q. Who did?

16 A. Um, Aaron and Drew.

17 Q. And after Drew left, who was kind of charge of  
18 the organization?

19 A. Aaron.

00:58:28

20 Q. Did you recruit anyone to participate?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did you manage anyone to supervise their  
23 day-to-day activities?

24 A. No.

00:58:42

25 Q. Do you believe you knew everybody else that was

1 involved in this organization?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Why do you say that?

4 A. When I saw the -- all of the names listed or

00:58:53 5 read, you know, there was 20 people involved. I had  
6 no idea.

7 Q. So your role was limited to exactly what you  
8 explained, packaging and shipping the drugs?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And putting them in the boxes for a while and  
11 then that got taken from you?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Based on all that you know, who was in charge of  
14 this operation?

00:59:15 15 A. Aaron Shamo.

16 MR. STEJSKAL: Thank you. That's all of the  
17 questions I have.

18 THE COURT: Thank you Mr. Stejskal. You may  
19 cross-examine, Ms. Beckett.

00:59:22 20 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

21 BY MS. BECKETT:

22 Q. Ms. Tonge, I believe it was your testimony that  
23 you began your involvement with this organization in  
24 2015; is that correct?

00:59:50 25 A. Correct.

1 Q. When in 2015?

2 A. Approximately April or March.

3 Q. And I believe it was also your testimony that you  
4 approached Aaron Shamo and asked how you could be  
01:00:06 5 involved, correct?

6 A. How I could make money from him whatever he was  
7 doing, involved in.

8 Q. So your intention was to find a way to make some  
9 easy money?

01:00:17 10 A. To make extra money, yeah.

11 Q. You were still working at the time, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. I believe at that point in time your testimony  
14 was that you were living in Riverton?

01:00:24 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. With your girlfriend at the time Katie Bustin?

17 A. Bustin, yeah.

18 Q. And your mother?

19 A. Yes.

01:00:32 20 Q. Were you renting a home out there?

21 A. I was, yup.

22 Q. The three of you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Any other adults in that home?

01:00:40 25 A. No.

1 Q. And at some point in I believe 2016 you moved  
2 from Riverton to Daybreak; is that correct?

3 A. It was in 2015.

4 Q. End of 2015, middle of 2015?

01:00:54 5 A. June.

6 Q. June of 2015?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So not long after you started in this  
9 organization you were able to move from Riverton to

01:01:01 10 Daybreak?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And you moved into a separate home from your  
13 mother?

14 A. Rented a town home, yeah.

01:01:08 15 Q. And your mother had a town home or house she was  
16 renting or purchased?

17 A. A townhouse that she purchased.

18 Q. I believe your testimony was that towards the end  
19 of this organization you were making roughly 3,500

01:01:28 20 every two weeks between the two of you; correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. With that money you also paid off your truck;  
23 correct?

24 A. I did not.

01:01:41 25 Q. Your truck is not paid off?

1 A. It was not.

2 Q. Your truck is currently not paid off?

3 A. Um, the truck that I had at the time was a loan.

4 I sold that truck and I was given a truck from work

01:01:54 5 that I currently drive that is paid off but it was

6 not paid off by me.

7 Q. You had a car as well, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. You were paying on that during this time period

01:02:05 10 as well, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So you and your girlfriend made enough money to

13 move into a town home at Daybreak and pay on two

14 vehicles during this time period, correct?

01:02:18 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I believe it is also your testimony that your

17 initial contact after you approached Aaron Shamo was

18 Drew Crandall; is that correct?

19 A. We talked to him as well, yes, but never directly

01:02:33 20 to just Drew.

21 Q. Drew never came over to your home?

22 A. He did.

23 Q. So you did speak directly with Drew Crandall?

24 A. Correct, but he wasn't just someone that we were

01:02:45 25 only working with, we were working with both parties.

1 Q. Drew is the person who showed you how to package  
2 these items for shipping, correct?

3 A. He did.

4 Q. He showed you how to operate the heat sealer?

01:02:56 5 A. He did.

6 Q. Came over to your home on a regular basis?

7 A. For about two weeks.

8 Q. Showed you how to find return addresses?

9 A. Drop a pin on a map, yup.

01:03:10 10 Q. Showed you how to find blue boxes or post office  
11 boxes or post office places to drop these packages  
12 off?

13 A. Just said find blue boxes in these areas.

14 Q. He instructed you on how to do that, correct?

01:03:24 15 A. Sure.

16 Q. I believe it was also your testimony that Drew is  
17 the one who set up the "Pass the Peas" e-mail account  
18 for you; is that correct?

19 A. Correct.

01:03:47 20 Q. Did you forfeit any assets?

21 A. The money in the home.

22 Q. So just the 1,900 --

23 A. 19,000.

24 Q. 19,500?

01:03:58 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. That's not all of the money you made during this  
2 organization though, was it?

3 A. No, it was not.

4 Q. You made a significant amount of money, correct?

01:04:06 5 A. In comparison I would say no.

6 Q. I did not ask in comparison. You made a  
7 significant amount of money, correct?

8 A. I made money, yes.

9 Q. You were still working during this time period,  
01:04:19 10 correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. You had a salary from your job plus all of this  
13 roughly 3,500 every two weeks between you and  
14 Ms. Bustin, correct?

01:04:26 15 A. 3,500 at the end, not throughout.

16 Q. You essentially managed your own schedule during  
17 all of this though, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And there were multiple times where you contacted  
01:04:41 20 either Aaron or Drew Crandall and complained about  
21 the amount of work you had to do, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And when you needed any sort of assistance you  
24 received the assistance you needed, correct?

01:04:55 25 A. Correct.

1 Q. At some point in time you decided you did not  
2 want to be the party who was dropping off these  
3 packages, correct?

4 A. Correct.

01:05:06

5 Q. And you essentially asked for somebody else to  
6 come fulfill that role, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That individual was Sean Gygi, correct?

9 A. Yes.

01:05:14

10 Q. And he became your point of contact and you would  
11 let him know when to pick up packages, correct?

12 A. When we had finished processing we would just say  
13 hey they're ready for you.

14 Q. And you would tell him to come get them?

01:05:25

15 A. We would just let him know that they were ready  
16 so that he could come get them.

17 Q. And you would let him know where they needed to  
18 be dropped off?

19 A. He would see the address from the label and he  
20 would know which area it needed to be taken to.

01:05:33

21 Q. There was never a point in time when you told him  
22 these may need to go to Lehi or these may need to go  
23 to Sandy or some other area?

24 A. I may have referenced the city.

01:05:50

25 Q. I believe it was also your testimony that you



1 began in the military in 2013; is that correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you were discharged in 2019, correct?

4 A. Correct.

01:06:01

5 Q. Your testimony was that you were -- were you  
6 active duty during that time period?

7 A. National Guard.

8 Q. Just reserves?

9 A. Yes.

01:06:08

10 Q. So for almost the entirety of your military  
11 career you were involved in this organization?

12 A. For two years of the six.

13 Q. When did you plead guilty in this case?

14 A. In June of 2018.

01:06:28

15 Q. You were going to school during this time period  
16 too, correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. You wanted to become a helicopter pilot?

19 A. Yes.

01:06:39

20 Q. I'm going to ask that question again. You wanted  
21 to become a helicopter pilot, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So in November of 2016 when you were stopped by  
24 police officers or agents in this case, you had a lot  
01:06:50 25 to lose, correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You had a girlfriend?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. A career?

01:06:57 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. A family?

7 A. Yes, yup.

8 Q. A mother you wanted to take care of?

9 A. Yup.

01:07:03 10 Q. You were also trying to purchase a home?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. When agents approached you, you told them

13 anything they needed to hear, correct?

14 A. I told them the truth.

01:07:28 15 Q. At the end of 2016 when you were approached by

16 agents, at that point in time was Drew Crandall

17 involved in the organization?

18 A. He was, yes.

19 Q. You had contact with him through e-mail and

01:07:41 20 telegram?

21 A. On occasion, yes.

22 Q. Are you familiar with Luke Paz?

23 A. I know the name, yes.

24 Q. Are you familiar with his role in this

01:07:56 25 organization?

1 A. Mostly.

2 Q. What is your understanding of Luke Paz's role in  
3 this organization?

4 A. He pressed pills with Aaron.

01:08:05 5 Q. What kind of pills did Luke Paz press?

6 A. The oxycodone fentanyl pills.

7 Q. At some point in time did Aaron Shamo express  
8 frustration to you about not having access to the  
9 formula for the fentanyl pills?

01:08:19 10 A. He did.

11 Q. Who did he say had that formula?

12 A. Luke.

13 Q. Did he say that that formula -- without having  
14 that formula he was unable to actually press the  
01:08:28 15 pills himself?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And that he was frustrated that Luke held onto  
18 that formula and kept it from him?

19 A. Yes, because he wanted to do that himself.

01:08:44 20 Q. I believe we looked at a couple of invoices on  
21 some of these exhibits, do you remember those?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You created some of those invoices, correct?

24 A. I did.

01:08:54 25 Q. You had kind of free range on what those looked

1 like, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. I believe part of your testimony was that you and  
4 Katie wanted to leave this organization and that  
01:09:09 5 Aaron had offered you a down payment on a home to  
6 keep you around. Is that your testimony?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Do you remember a time in 2000 -- it may have  
9 been 2015 but possibly early 2016 when there was an  
01:09:24 10 incident involving your dog?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you tell me what that was?

13 A. Um, yes. He had gotten into the room where we  
14 kept all of the products and ingested an MDMA pill.

01:09:37 15 Q. Do you remember approaching Aaron and telling him  
16 that you needed a home with a backyard so you could  
17 continue to manufacture pills and not put your  
18 animals at risk?

19 A. I don't remember that, no.

01:09:48 20 Q. Would it surprise you if a conversation like that  
21 occurred?

22 A. I know we talked to him about the dog getting  
23 hurt, but no, it wouldn't.

24 Q. Do you remember complaining to Aaron about the  
01:10:01 25 number of orders you had to fulfill or Drew about the

1 number of orders you had to fulfill?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you remember suggesting to either Drew or  
4 Aaron that potentially shipping in bulk was a better  
01:10:14 5 idea for you, Katie, and the organization?

6 A. No.

7 Q. You also testified that you received money  
8 through Venmo, not just cash, correct?

9 A. Correct.

01:10:28 10 Q. And that you also had your own Bitcoin wallet; is  
11 that correct?

12 A. To purchase postage only, yes.

13 Q. But you knew how to use that Bitcoin wallet,  
14 correct?

01:10:39 15 A. Yes, correct.

16 Q. There has been some testimony about Aaron leaving  
17 or some individual leaving drugs or items in your  
18 truck and that's where you would retrieve them from.  
19 Does that sound correct to you?

01:10:59 20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Did Aaron ever have a key fob for your truck?

22 A. He had the pin code for the door.

23 Q. But not the key fob, correct?

24 A. Correct.

01:11:09 25 Q. Did that pin code make the lights in your truck

1 flash on and off when you enter the code?

2 A. I don't know if the lights flash.

3 Q. Like with a key fob, do you know what?

4 A. Yeah, I -- I don't recall but sure.

01:11:25 5 Q. Is it also consistent with your testimony that  
6 you and Katie did actually use those gel caps to  
7 manufacture MDMA pills for shipping, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. So you weren't just involved in shipping, you  
01:11:39 10 actually manufactured those pills?

11 A. That's not manufacturing it's just putting the  
12 powder that is already there in to a capsule. It is  
13 not making them. It is -- I think it is different.  
14 There is not a formula involved or any other  
01:11:52 15 additions.

16 Q. Taking it from one form to another in order to  
17 sell it en masse?

18 A. Sure.

19 Q. Is that correct?

01:12:00 20 A. I think it's a different terminology. There's  
21 not a formula. It is taking one powder and putting  
22 it into a capsule instead of adding different  
23 ingredients.

24 Q. Ms. Tonge, I didn't ask you if there was a  
01:12:17 25 formula involved, I asked if you took the product

1 from one form, put it into another, and then shipped  
2 it out for sale?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Since you were stopped on November 22nd, 2016,  
01:12:32 5 did you spend time in jail?

6 A. I did not.

7 Q. As a matter of fact, you got married since that  
8 date, correct?

9 A. I did.

01:12:47 10 Q. After you pled guilty in this case, did you have  
11 any other interviews with the government?

12 A. I have.

13 Q. How many interviews have you had?

14 A. One.

01:13:01 15 Q. I believe we looked at your Statement in Advance  
16 of Plea?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Were you offered any incentive for cooperating  
19 with the government?

01:13:12 20 A. Not at the beginning, no, I was not.

21 Q. When you entered that plea?

22 A. I was.

23 Q. You were offered both leniency for cooperating as  
24 well as told that you would not be charged with a  
01:13:26 25 death resulting count, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. If we can look at Exhibit 14.30. Do you have the  
3 page number on that very large exhibit. Do you have  
4 a page number down at the bottom of this exhibit?

01:13:53

5 That is an order you fulfilled, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. So an order you shipped, correct?

8 A. Correct.

01:14:01

9 Q. Are you aware that the government is alleging  
10 that this shipment to Gregory Lee is the basis for  
11 the death resulting count in this case?

12 A. I am.

13 Q. But you're not charged with that?

14 A. Correct.

01:14:14

15 Q. In fact, you agreed to plead guilty so that you  
16 would not be charged with that, correct?

17 A. I pled guilty because I knew what I did was  
18 wrong.

01:14:23

19 Q. And part of that agreement entailed you not being  
20 charged with a death resulting count, correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 MS. BECKETT: Just one second, Your Honor.

23 Those are all of the questions I have. Thank you.

24 THE COURT: Thank you. Redirect,

01:14:46

25 Mr. Stejskal?



**REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

BY MR. STEJSKAL:

Q. Let me just clear up a couple of things just so we're all understanding here. You were asked how many other interviews you had with the government and I believe you answered one, correct?

A. Since the guilty plea, yeah.

Q. Since the guilty plea, that was the question, okay.

A. Yes.

Q. And that was in preparation for trial?

A. Correct.

Q. When you pled guilty, it was explained to you that the judge would consider all of your conduct in this whole matter, correct?

A. Correct.

Q. And that -- to your understanding did that include the fact that somebody died?

A. Yeah.

Q. You weren't specifically charged with that but that would be considered, correct?

A. Correct.

Q. When did your cooperation start with the United States law enforcement?

A. November 22nd when I was pulled over.

1 Q. Basically from the moment you were pulled over?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Describe that again your interaction with the  
4 officer that pulled you over?

01:16:09 5 A. I just -- he knew -- he asked me if I knew why I  
6 was being pulled over. He was in an unmarked vehicle  
7 and he wasn't wearing a uniform and I told him what I  
8 did. I requested that he not breakdown our door,  
9 that I would let him in and show him anything that he  
01:16:28 10 needed to see.

11 Q. And then you interviewed with some other agents  
12 that same day?

13 A. I did.

14 Q. Did anybody promise you anything at that time?

01:16:36 15 A. No.

16 Q. You cooperated fully just based on what you said  
17 that you wanted to cooperate?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. One other clarification. I had asked you if you  
01:16:48 20 recruited anyone. Are you familiar with a person by  
21 the name of Elise Christensen?

22 A. I am.

23 Q. Who is that?

24 A. A friend from eBay.

01:16:59 25 Q. Maybe the term "recruited" wasn't the right

1 terminology, but did you speak with Ms. Christensen  
2 about this or refer her to someone?

3 A. I did, yeah. To receive packages to get that  
4 money to be a drop basically for Aaron.

01:17:16 5 Q. How did you assist in that relationship?

6 A. Um, just gave her the information and passed that  
7 along to Aaron because he had needed another person  
8 to kind of fulfill that spot.

9 Q. And did you have any negotiation with

01:17:32 10 Ms. Christensen about what she would be paid?

11 A. I did not.

12 Q. Or how to do it?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Who did that?

01:17:37 15 A. Aaron told me this is how much she could get from  
16 doing that. So as soon as she gets a package she can  
17 let me know or you can bring it to me for her.

18 Q. When you say "let me know", let you know or let  
19 Mr. Shamo know?

01:17:53 20 A. Let Mr. Shamo know or let myself know.

21 MR. STEJSKAL: Thank you. That's all of the  
22 questions.

23 THE COURT: Thank you. Any re-cross?

24 MS. BECKETT: Yes. Just briefly, Your Honor.

01:18:09 25 Your Honor, if I may approach.

1 THE COURT: You may.

2 **RECROSS-EXAMINATION**

3 BY MS. BECKETT:

01:18:32

4 Q. I have placed an exhibit next to you, I believe

5 it is 17.06. If I could have you look at that,

6 Ms. Tonge. On that chart, who are you familiar with?

7 A. Um, Noble, Shamo, Paz, Crandall, myself, Bustin,

8 Gygi, and Christensen.

01:18:59

9 Q. I believe it was your testimony just now that you

10 essentially referred Elise Christensen to Mr. Shamo;

11 is that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And that if she received a package on Mr. Shamo's

14 behalf, she could let you know about that package?

01:19:11

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And you would retrieve that package from her and

17 provide it to either Mr. Shamo or Mr. Crandall?

18 A. Provide it to Aaron, yeah.

19 Q. If we could go back to that 14.30 exhibit.

01:19:39

20 You're familiar with this exhibit, correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Those are essentially daily order sheets?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Was your testimony that you were not aware that

01:19:53

25 fentanyl was being used in these pills; is that

1 correct?

2 A. Fentanyl was being used in pills that were  
3 marketed as something other than that, correct.

4 Q. But you were aware that there was fentanyl,  
5 correct?

6 A. I saw on the pages. I was unaware of what it  
7 was.

8 Q. You were unaware of what fentanyl was?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Until somebody in this case told you?

11 A. The severity of that, yes.

12 MS. BECKETT: That's all I have. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: Thank you. Anything else?

14 MR. STEJSKAL: No.

15 THE COURT: You may step down. Thank you and  
16 you may be excused. The government may call its next  
17 witness.

18 MR. STEJSKAL: The government will call Katie  
19 Bustin.

20 THE COURT: Come forward and be sworn,  
21 please.

22 THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.

23 **KATHERINE LAUREN ANNE BUSTIN,**

24 called as a witness at the request of the Defendant,

25 having been first duly sworn, was examined

1 and testified as follows:

2 THE WITNESS: I do.

3 THE CLERK: Come around to the witness box  
4 here (indicating). Please state your name and spell  
01:21:28 5 it for the record.

6 THE WITNESS: It is Katherine Lauren Anne  
7 Bustin, K-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E L-A-U-R-E-N A-N-N-E  
8 B-U-S-T-I-N.

9 THE COURT: You may proceed, Mr. Stejskal.

01:21:47 10 MR. STEJSKAL: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

12 BY MR. STEJSKAL:

13 Q. Where do you work?

14 A. I work at Main Street Office Furniture.

01:21:54 15 Q. With Ms. Tonge?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What do you do there?

18 A. I am the designer and space planner.

19 Q. What kinds of customers do you guys have?

01:22:03 20 A. Mostly commercial businesses, offices trying to  
21 get cubicals and their offices set up.

22 Q. How long have you worked there?

23 A. Um, a little over two years.

24 Q. Where did you previously work?

01:22:16 25 A. I worked at eBay.

1 Q. How long did you work there?

2 A. For a little over six years.

3 Q. So you started when?

4 A. Um, August 2011.

01:22:28 5 Q. And when did you quit working there?

6 A. Um, June 2017.

7 Q. And you were let go as a result of your  
8 involvement in this case, correct?

9 A. Yes.

01:22:48 10 Q. Tell us about some of the people that you met at  
11 eBay that were involved in this?

12 A. Um, I first met Aaron. I think we were on the  
13 same team together and we had kind of become work  
14 friends and his friend Drew would come over and  
01:23:07 15 visit. So in proximity I would talk to him as well.

16 Q. Just at work or did you socialize outside of  
17 work?

18 A. Just at work.

19 Q. At some point you became Facebook friends I  
01:23:19 20 guess?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. But as far as going to pubs with those guys and  
23 stuff?

24 A. No, it wasn't my scene really so --

01:23:26 25 Q. And so you struck up a casual work relationship

1 with Mr. Shamo and Mr. Crandall?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And was there something about that that turned  
4 into this?

01:23:39

5 A. Yeah. Um, I had driving Drew home one night and  
6 he had kind of told me a few things, not necessarily  
7 any specifics, but I kind of had an idea of what they  
8 were kind of doing. I also knew that Aaron was  
9 planning on leaving eBay and I didn't know how he

01:24:00

10 could do that with not having a job and paying all of  
11 the bills still.

12 Q. So did you end up meeting with Mr. Shamo and  
13 Mr. Crandall about becoming involved?

14 A. Yes. I don't recall who approached who, but,

01:24:18

15 yes, we talked about it and Aaron had asked if we  
16 wanted to be a drop is what he called it to receive  
17 packages at our home address.

18 Q. And did you agree to do that?

19 A. Yes.

01:24:30

20 Q. And did you and Ms. Tonge receive several  
21 packages that way?

22 A. Yes. We received, I think, four or five of them.

23 Q. And what did you do with those?

24 A. We weren't allowed to open them, we just brought  
25 them straight to Aaron .

01:24:43



1 Q. And what were you paid for those?

2 A. Um, from what I recall we were paid about \$100 a  
3 package. So sometimes we would get a few at a time.

4 Q. Paid in cash?

01:24:57 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you eventually become involved in the  
7 organization in a different way?

8 A. Yes. Over probably another five months or so,  
9 um, again I don't recall who approached who, but

01:25:15 10 there was an opportunity to make a little bit more  
11 money and do a few more things so they kind of  
12 explained that to us, Aaron and Drew, and we kind of  
13 got started from there.

14 Q. Okay. Before I forget, you talk about an Aaron  
01:25:30 15 Shamo that you knew and were involved with in these  
16 activities. Can you identify him for the jurors?

17 A. Yes. He is over here, far right.

18 Q. Describe him a little bit.

19 A. Um, I don't really have my glasses on so I can't  
01:25:45 20 see him clearly, but he is wearing a black suit,  
21 possibly a black tie.

22 THE COURT: I didn't hear what you said.

23 MR. SKORDAS: I was just going to say we'll  
24 stipulate that she knows Aaron.

01:25:54 25 THE COURT: Thank you.

1 MR. STEJSKAL: Thank you.

2 Q. (By Mr. Stejskal) I'm sorry, what was the further  
3 work then that you had agreed to do?

01:26:10

4 A. Originally it was to start shipping out some  
5 product. Um, we still didn't know a whole lot at the  
6 beginning, but we made an agreement that Drew would  
7 come over and kind of show us the ropes of how to  
8 ship things and how to get them sent out.

9 Q. And he did that and you guys watched?

01:26:26

10 A. Yes. He would come over -- I think he came over  
11 maybe three or four times and helped us learn how to  
12 package and make it safe to go through the mail.

13 Q. In addition to packaging, what else did he show  
14 you about how to get the orders and that kind of  
15 stuff?

01:26:45

16 A. Um, he worked with Alex on setting up an account  
17 on the computer through the Dark Web. I didn't do  
18 anything on the computer much so I didn't know a  
19 whole lot about how they set that up, um, but that's  
20 how he kind of explained how to do it.

01:27:00

21 Q. Okay. Let's talk about you then. So how did you  
22 divide up the duties between you and Ms. Tonge at the  
23 beginning there?

24 A. Um, the first time that Drew came over he just  
25 kind of told us one person will package, the other

01:27:13

1 person will do orders, it is probably just easier  
2 that way. So it just happened to be that I was doing  
3 the sorting and Alex was doing the labels and  
4 packaging.

01:27:27 5 Q. What do you mean by sorting?

6 A. I would look at the order sheets that Alex would  
7 print out and I would sort and count the pills, put  
8 them in packages, and I would hand them back to Alex  
9 and she would seal them in the package and put  
01:27:40 10 postage on it.

11 Q. And then at the beginning you guys were also  
12 responsible for getting them in the postal system?

13 A. Yes. In the beginning we would drive them around  
14 to random blue boxes and as well as dropping them off  
01:27:52 15 in the bins at the post office.

16 Q. When you started, what size of packages were you  
17 doing and kind of how many?

18 A. In the beginning it was pretty small. We were  
19 doing maybe sets of 10 or 20 in a little package but  
01:28:11 20 it got bigger from there. But originally it was only  
21 a few at a time.

22 Q. And as far as how many packages at night would  
23 you guys do?

24 A. In the beginning probably maybe 10 to 20 orders a  
01:28:23 25 night.

1 Q. And did that progress as time went by?

2 A. Yes, yeah, very much.

3 Q. At some point did Mr. Crandall leave the country?

4 A. He did. I am not quite sure of the time frame

01:28:38 5 that he left, but I remember he wanted to travel

6 around with his girlfriend Sasha at the time and he

7 was going to get paid out from Aaron so he could go

8 travel.

9 Q. And did he in fact leave?

01:28:53 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. After Mr. Crandall left, who was your main

12 contact with as far as running your part of this

13 operation?

14 A. It was always Aaron that we communicated with

01:29:10 15 after Drew was gone.

16 Q. Before him would you communicate with both of

17 them when Drew was around?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And did the types of drugs you were shipping out

01:29:26 20 change after Drew left?

21 A. They did. Um, after he left, Aaron had started

22 or had a contact of some kind that wanted him to

23 start shipping out oxy or what I thought were oxy --

24 Oxycodone. And from that point, we mostly shipped

01:29:46 25 that and kind of left behind some of the other pills

1 that were originally being shipped.

2 Q. So those weren't as profitable or weren't --

3 A. Just weren't as popular, yeah.

4 Q. Did you have any contact with customers?

01:30:00 5 A. No. There were some messages on orders we got,  
6 but we never reached out to any customer.

7 Q. Did you get any payment from customers?

8 A. No, it was always through Aaron.

9 Q. Did you have anything to do with the Dark Web?

01:30:13 10 A. No. Myself I did not.

11 Q. So if I understand what you're saying, orders  
12 would come to you and you guys would fill them?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You described counting pills at the beginning  
01:30:30 15 when there were 10 or 20 or whatever. Um, would you  
16 physically hand count those one, two, three four and  
17 put them in a package?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did that eventually change?

01:30:40 20 A. Yes. Once the orders got bigger, um, Aaron would  
21 provide us with scales and we could you know count  
22 out ten and weigh how much that was and then just do  
23 the math from there if it was a large order.

24 Q. And who told you how to do that?

01:30:56 25 A. Um, from what I recall, it was Aaron.

1 Q. And so describe that. There were some orders I  
2 think I saw of 2,000 and 5,000. How would you  
3 prepare those for packaging and delivery?

4 A. Um, at first I would try and do the math right,  
01:31:16 5 um, and just weigh them out. But it was just so much  
6 and it was taking up so much of our evenings that we  
7 -- I would just kind of assume or guess how much  
8 would be in a package and if it looked right just  
9 send it.

01:31:35 10 Q. And you got some feedback sometimes or saw some  
11 feedback that you were putting too many in?

12 A. Yes. Um, Aaron would reach out and let us know  
13 that extras are fine for customers and it's nice to  
14 do that, but sometimes people were saying they had  
01:31:52 15 like 100 or more extras and that is just because I  
16 wasn't counting them.

17 Q. And was Aaron upset about that?

18 A. Um, I don't know if I would say he was upset. He  
19 seemed maybe annoyed just because that's his profit  
01:32:10 20 and his pills that he has made. So I don't think he  
21 was really ever upset about it, but I don't think he  
22 was happy about it.

23 Q. He kind of told you to be more careful?

24 A. Yes.

01:32:24 25 Q. There seemed to be an abundance of pills. Did

1 you guys ever run short?

2 A. Um, from what I can recall, I don't think we did.

3 Um, Aaron would supply us with pills pretty regularly

4 so most of the time we didn't run out. If we did,

01:32:44 5 then he would reach out to the customers and let them

6 know it will be a day or two late.

7 Q. And we saw photos of the search warrant and there

8 were kind of pills on the floor and stuff and pills

9 in the vacuum cleaner. Do you recall that?

01:33:00 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Were those accurate pictures? Was that kind of

12 how the house was at the time?

13 A. Yes. It was something that we didn't have

14 passion about, we didn't really care about it. So if

01:33:10 15 we dropped a pill or there was something on the

16 ground, we would just vacuum it up. We weren't

17 counting individual pills.

18 Q. So you weren't accountable to Mr. Shamo for each

19 and every pill?

01:33:20 20 A. Correct.

21 Q. There were so many that it didn't --

22 A. It was hard to keep track of anything that's why

23 he would reach out sometimes when we had large orders

24 but, um, or large extras on orders. But other than

01:33:34 25 that, he didn't count every pill so we didn't either.

1 Q. And was there -- were there sometimes re-ships?

2 A. Yes. Some people would say that maybe they got  
3 the product and it was smashed so they couldn't take  
4 them or that they just didn't get the package at all  
5 so we would have to re-ship out to that address.

01:33:51

6 Q. Did you at times have concerns or reservations  
7 about doing this and ask to get out of it?

8 A. Yes. Um, (witness crying) a few months before,  
9 sorry, a few months before we were caught, I had just  
10 a horrible feeling and I wanted to be done  
11 completely, um, but was persuaded otherwise to just  
12 keep going with it.

01:34:47

13 Q. Did you have conversations with Mr. Shamo about  
14 that and what not?

15 A. Yes. Um, we had told him -- Alex and I had told  
16 him that we were very uncomfortable, that we didn't  
17 want to do it any more. I was paranoid from the  
18 beginning. Um, I kept asking for less  
19 responsibilities or less public places to go and --  
20 but instead he -- Aaron would offer, you know, time  
21 off, paid time off, or he offered to give us money to  
22 buy a house. And that was something that we were  
23 looking to do, so that was a huge incentive. We  
24 wanted to, you know, build a life. So...

01:35:07

01:35:29

01:35:48

25 Q. And somewhere towards the end you had surgery on



1 your wrists?

2 A. I did, yes. I had a cyst on both of my wrists.

3 So the day that we were arrested I had just had a  
4 surgery just a few days before that.

01:36:07 5 Q. During that time Ms. Tonge had to kind of do  
6 things on her own?

7 A. Yes. She would do the orders and I couldn't  
8 really do much. I couldn't move my wrists very much  
9 so I wouldn't -- I didn't do them for the last

01:36:25 10 probably three weeks, I would say, up to the time we  
11 were caught. So...

12 Q. And all that time you were feeling like you  
13 wanted to quit?

14 A. Yes.

01:36:37 15 Q. November 22nd of 2016, you remember that day well  
16 I assume?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What happened that day?

19 A. Um, that was the day that our house was raided.

01:36:50 20 Um, I was in bed and Alex luckily was able to let  
21 them into the house rather than breaking in and they  
22 came in and flipped our house and searched everything  
23 and brought us in for questioning.

24 Q. And were you cooperative at that time?

01:37:10 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How so?

2 A. Um, I just told the truth. As soon as they  
3 brought us in I gave up everything I knew.

4 Q. Were you emotional at that time?

01:37:22 5 A. Yeah, very much.

6 Q. Did you have any agreement at that time about  
7 what was going to happen to you?

8 A. No.

9 Q. But you told them any way?

01:37:33 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. How come?

12 A. I didn't want to be in this from the beginning so  
13 I knew it was something that I just needed to clear  
14 up and tell the truth and just get out of it  
01:37:48 15 completely.

16 Q. Let's look at Exhibit 23.00. Do you recognize  
17 that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. That is the front page of your guilty plea?

01:38:07 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you in fact plead guilty in this matter?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. Did you plead to every charge that was charged  
24 against you?

01:38:15 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you have any specific sentencing agreement  
2 about what is going to happen to you?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did you also enter into a cooperation agreement?

01:38:27

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And in that you agreed to tell the truth in any  
7 further court proceeding against anyone else,  
8 correct?

9 A. Yes.

01:38:36

10 Q. Have you done that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Part of the agreement was that you would not be  
13 charged with the death that resulted from this  
14 organization; is that correct?

01:38:49

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. But you understood that the judge will consider  
17 all of your conduct and everything that happened as a  
18 result of this organization in determining what  
19 happens to you, correct?

01:39:01

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you have any stake in the outcome of this  
22 proceeding?

23 A. No.

24 Q. All you were told is to tell the truth, correct?

01:39:13

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you have any -- other than this criminal  
2 charge any other consequences from your involvement  
3 in this?

4 A. Um, aside from losing my job, no.

01:39:25 5 Q. Okay. You were fired from your job?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And probably some friends and family kind of had  
8 some --

9 A. Luckily no family. My family has been very  
01:39:35 10 supportive but I lost a lot of friends.

11 Q. Did you organize this operation?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Did you manage anyone, supervise their day-to-day  
14 activities?

01:39:57 15 A. No.

16 Q. Did you know that others were involved?

17 A. Um, yes, just a few people, but yes.

18 Q. When you say just a few people, did you -- do you  
19 think you knew everybody that was involved in this  
01:40:12 20 organization?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Why do you say that?

23 A. Um, I just saw the sign. I didn't realize there  
24 were that many people at all.

01:40:21 25 Q. Based on what you did and what you know, who was

1 in charge of this operation?

2 A. Aaron was.

3 Q. Why do you say that?

4 A. He was the one who did all of the communicating,  
01:40:31 5 he made the financial decisions, he is the one who  
6 started the account on the Dark Web, he created this  
7 whole thing and taught others.

8 MR. STEJSKAL: Thank you. That's all of the  
9 questions I have.

01:40:48 10 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you  
11 Mr. Stejskal. Mr. Skordas, you may cross-examine.

12 MR. SKORDAS: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

14 BY MR. SKORDAS:

01:40:54 15 Q. Hi.

16 A. Hi.

17 Q. My name is Greg Skordas and I'm Aaron's attorney.  
18 We haven't met before, have we?

19 A. I don't think so.

01:41:01 20 Q. Or spoken?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Um, you know Drew Crandall, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you see his picture on there?

01:41:07 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Kind of a give away but his name is underneath  
2 it. Is that the fellow you know as Drew Crandall?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And I think your testimony was that you knew

01:41:19 5 Aaron and Drew through your employment there at eBay;  
6 correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And that the introduction into this mess you got  
9 yourself into was first from a drive home you had

01:41:33 10 with you and Drew, correct?

11 A. Partially. He didn't tell me a whole lot from  
12 there. Um, he just had a lot of envelopes in his  
13 backpack and I was curious and he was very vague in  
14 what he said. But it later came to light from Aaron  
01:41:48 15 of what more specifically what they were doing.

16 Q. And you were, of course, reluctant to get  
17 involved in this, correct?

18 A. I was, yes.

19 Q. And although Alex is a dear friend of yours, she  
01:42:03 20 sort of took the laboring on a lot of this; is that  
21 fair?

22 A. Um, partially. Um, I would say that she is a  
23 little bit more money driven, money stresses her out  
24 a little bit more than it does me, but we both made  
01:42:19 25 the decision. So...

1 Q. But, for example, the packages that were  
2 delivered to your house were always in her name and  
3 not yours; correct?

01:42:31

4 A. In the beginning, yes, the packages that Aaron  
5 would have shipped to us were addressed to Alex.

6 Q. And that was your choice, right? You wanted to  
7 keep your involvement as little as possible?

8 A. Correct. Alex and I talked about it, yes.

01:42:50

9 Q. And you were taken into custody or at least taken  
10 to the South Jordan Police Department on November  
11 22nd, correct?

12 A. Yes.

01:43:02

13 Q. And that's the first time that anyone in law  
14 enforcement had addressed you about this whole thing;  
15 correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. You were interviewed separate from Alex?

18 A. Yes.

01:43:11

19 Q. And you were interviewed by a police officer or  
20 two or three?

21 A. Correct, yes.

22 Q. And you described your involvement in this to the  
23 best you could, correct?

24 A. Yes.

01:43:19

25 Q. You told them that you were receiving parcels

1 from all over the country, correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. From Florida, from Taiwan, domestic and  
4 international, I think is what you told the  
5 investigators; is that fair?

01:43:33

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And that was correct?

8 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

9 Q. And that you would -- either you or Alex would  
10 drive these parcels after you got them to the house,  
11 correct?

01:43:43

12 A. To Aaron and Drew's house. Every once in a while  
13 Aaron would come and pick them up from us if we were  
14 busy.

01:43:57

15 Q. So when the government was talking to you, you  
16 kept referring to it as Aaron's house. But you knew  
17 it was Aaron and Drew's house, correct?

18 A. They lived together in the beginning, yes.

19 Q. And when you were delivering packages to them,  
20 they were living together, correct?

01:44:08

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And that you were paid 100 or 200 or something  
23 per package when you would make those deliveries,  
24 correct?

01:44:22

25 A. Correct, yes.



1 Q. But at some point you or -- you and Alex or maybe  
2 Alex seized an opportunity to make more money; is  
3 that fair?

4 A. Yes.

01:44:33

5 Q. Right or wrong that's what you decided to do,  
6 correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And you decided to get involved in sort of the  
9 shipping and packaging part of this?

01:44:43

10 A. Right.

11 Q. Correct?

12 A. Right.

13 Q. And Drew came to your house over the course of  
14 several days and walked you through that process;

01:44:51

15 correct?

16 A. He did in the beginning, yes.

17 Q. He taught you how to do that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. He taught you how to get the labels and get the  
20 packages and put things together, correct?

01:45:00

21 A. Originally we didn't have labels we were just  
22 doing postage, actual stamps from the post office.  
23 Later, the shipping labels was an idea of Aaron's  
24 after Drew had left.

01:45:16

25 Q. I think what you told the police was that Drew

1 showed you and Alex how to package the pills properly  
2 so product was not damaged during shipment; is that  
3 fair?

4 A. Correct, yes.

01:45:27

5 Q. And that Drew directed you and Alex to put the  
6 pills in mylar bags because they could not be x-rayed  
7 and to include an invoice in each package; is that  
8 correct?

9 A. Yes.

01:45:38

10 Q. When you told the officers that on November 22nd  
11 you were trying to tell the truth, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You were scared out of your wits, weren't you?

14 A. Yeah.

01:45:45

15 Q. You were -- you were anxious to curry a little  
16 favor from law enforcement, isn't that a fair  
17 statement?

18 A. I'm not sure if I would say a favor, but I was  
19 just trying to come clean.

01:45:57

20 Q. You didn't go to jail that night, did you?

21 A. No.

22 Q. And you knew that the keys to that jail were  
23 somewhat in your pocket by your cooperation?

01:46:11

24 A. I actually didn't know. I thought I was going to  
25 jail. They didn't tell me if I was or was not.

1 Q. But you know today that had you told them that  
2 night you didn't want to speak with them you would  
3 have gone to jail?

4 A. I assumed so.

01:46:26

5 Q. Crandall also directed you how to sort of change  
6 up the invoices once in a while, correct, so that  
7 they would show different products?

01:46:45

8 A. Yeah. He mentioned in the beginning to switch up  
9 the invoices so that way, you know, if it were ever  
10 looked at it would be different than other product.

01:47:01

11 Q. And what you told officers, and I'm not trying to  
12 put words in your mouth, I'm reading the report here,  
13 so if I'm wrong correct me, was that Crandall worked  
14 with you four or five times and then he continued to  
15 teach you?

01:47:17

16 A. In the beginning he would teach us kind of things  
17 about the post office. If I recall correctly, um,  
18 his girlfriend worked for the post office and she  
19 knew kind of what could be x-rayed or not x-rayed.  
20 So he would originally teach us. After that, when he  
21 left, we had to switch up a whole lot of stuff. But  
22 in the beginning he did teach us.

23 Q. You keep talking about "in the beginning". Was  
24 there a time when Drew got out of the picture?

01:47:30

25 A. Yes. He decided to travel with his girlfriend

1 Sasha. I don't know exactly the timeframe, but when  
2 he left, Aaron basically took over everything that he  
3 would have been doing with us and taught us  
4 everything else from that point on.

01:47:48

5 Q. I want to show you an exhibit that has been  
6 previously entered, it is 15.05, and have you go to  
7 Page 5 of that. And can you make the top part pretty  
8 -- do you see those names at the top?

9 A. Yes.

01:48:23

10 Q. And so if you look at the third line it says the  
11 date?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What is the date that this was sent?

14 A. November 20th, 2016.

01:48:33

15 Q. And that is two days before you were arrested?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Or at least questioned, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And who is "Shortbread 66"?

01:48:42

20 A. I don't know actually.

21 Q. You don't know who that is?

22 A. I don't. I didn't do any of the e-mailing or  
23 anything online.

24 Q. Do you know who "Pass the Peas" is?

01:49:01

25 A. Um, that is the account that Aaron set up for us

1 to receive e-mails.

2 Q. That is you guys?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. No matter who set it up, that is your account,  
01:49:11 5 right?

6 A. Right.

7 Q. Who is "American Steam"?

8 A. I don't know.

9 Q. If I were to tell you that "Shortbread 66" is  
01:49:18 10 Drew Crandall, and "American Steam" is Aaron Shamo,  
11 would that surprise you or does that seem consistent  
12 with your recollection today?

13 A. It seems consistent because when Drew was out of  
14 the country, he, I assume, possibly ran out of money  
01:49:35 15 and he wanted to get back in. So for a while it  
16 looks like he was sending the pages to us.

17 Q. It looks like, and correct me if I'm wrong, but  
18 he is sending you pages two days before the police  
19 come to your house?

01:49:53 20 A. On this day, yes.

21 Q. Isn't this the type of message that you guys were  
22 receiving fairly regularly during that time?

23 A. Um, I honestly don't recognize it because I never  
24 did the e-mails.

01:50:08 25 Q. Was that Alex's duties?

1 A. Correct, yes.

2 Q. And you had a separate function in this?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Thank you. I think you told officers at the time  
01:50:27 5 that Crandall, Drew Crandall, showed Alex how to  
6 access the e-mail account, decrypt the order  
7 fulfillment list, and print the information; is that  
8 accurate?

9 A. Yes, correct, when he was training us in the  
01:50:43 10 beginning.

11 Q. You told them that you don't -- you didn't have  
12 knowledge of the Dark Web and that Drew taught you  
13 that part of it, correct?

14 A. Um, from what I remember, I think that's  
01:50:59 15 accurate. He didn't teach me any of it, so the only  
16 thing that relates to that I don't know if Alex was  
17 more taught by Drew or Aaron. I'm not quite sure.

18 Q. Did Aaron come to your house and show you how to  
19 package things?

01:51:19 20 A. After -- I mean we saw both of them quite often.

21 Q. Both Aaron and Drew?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What period of time are you talking about?

24 A. This was before Drew left to travel. We would  
01:51:35 25 see them both at their home together or if they ever

1 came to give us money. They were friends so they  
2 were together quite a lot.

3 Q. And sorry I didn't mean to cut you off, actually  
4 I did. I just wanted to ask you another question.

01:51:53 5 When was it that you recall that Drew left?

6 A. I really don't know if I remember. I can't  
7 remember what time it was specifically.

8 Q. Do you remember telling officers on November 22nd  
9 that Drew taught Alex to randomly pick a spot on the  
01:52:19 10 map, list the address, and make up a name for the  
11 return address?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And that Drew told her to keep it as random as  
14 possible just so it is somewhere throughout the Salt  
01:52:29 15 Lake valley?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Is that accurate?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You told the truth when you told them that?

01:52:33 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How did you and Alex decide amongst yourselves  
22 how the money was going to be divided up?

23 A. Um, when we ever got payment it was just an equal  
24 split. Normally from the beginning talking to Drew  
01:53:01 25 and Aaron, they both said, you know, we'll pay you

1 each this much. Any time there was an increase it  
2 was always an equal increase so we always got paid  
3 the same amount.

4 Q. When you started working with Drew and Aaron,  
5 where did you live?

6 A. Um, we were considered --

7 Q. I don't need to know the exact address but what  
8 city?

9 A. When we were drops we were in Riverton.

10 Q. Did you ultimately move?

11 A. Yes, we moved to Daybreak.

12 Q. Was that a nicer place?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Was that, in part, based on the fact that you had  
15 an increased income?

16 A. Um, I don't know. I don't remember if it was  
17 something that we could afford before that. We were  
18 still drops at the time so we weren't making a whole  
19 lot to make a difference.

20 Q. But when you became more than drops you could  
21 afford a lot more, couldn't you?

22 A. Yes. Mostly bills and school, but yes.

23 Q. You were making about \$7,000 a month?

24 A. Um, that seems like a lot but I know it was  
25 probably close to that.



1 Q. \$3,500 every other week, does that make more  
2 sense?

3 A. I think so.

4 Q. Was that always in cash?

01:54:19 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Just sort of showed up in -- whose truck was it  
7 with the key fob, yours or Alex's?

8 A. It was Alex's truck.

9 Q. And the money would show up in the truck?

01:54:29 10 A. Yes. Or we would meet up or Aaron would come  
11 over to our house and give it to us.

12 Q. Could we look at 23.00, please. Ms. Bustin, I am  
13 going to show you something that you have already  
14 looked at and this is your Plea Agreement. Do you  
01:54:47 15 see that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. It is dated or at least it is stamped by this  
18 court on June 7th of 2018, correct?

19 A. Correct.

01:54:56 20 Q. Is that the day you pled guilty?

21 A. Um, I would assume so.

22 Q. So 14 months ago?

23 A. I honestly can't remember. I'm not great with  
24 dates, but it sounds that it could be right.

01:55:12 25 Q. And in 14 months you haven't been sentenced?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. You haven't been back to this court to decide  
3 what your punishment will be, correct?

4 A. Correct.

01:55:21 5 Q. And that's because that decision is in large part  
6 based on your participation today, correct?

7 A. Um, I don't know that it's based off of that or  
8 just we're just here. If I had no promises or  
9 anything I would still be here. So I don't know if

01:55:46 10 -- I don't think anything would be different.

11 Q. Well, you haven't been sentenced yet?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. You don't know what your punishment is going to  
14 be, correct?

01:55:54 15 A. Correct.

16 Q. You're hoping that the punishment will be as less  
17 as possible, correct?

18 A. I would hope so.

01:56:05 19 Q. And part of that expectation is based on your  
20 testimony today, correct?

21 A. I guess yeah I would say yes.

22 Q. There is no reason, is there, ma'am, to put the  
23 sentencing over for over 14 months, is there, except  
24 for you to come in here and testify against Aaron  
01:56:19 25 Shamo?

1 A. That makes sense, yes.

2 Q. Well, according to this plea agreement, if you

3 look at the top there, it says you're pleading

4 guilty, and I'm looking at Paragraph 1, make it

01:56:39 5 bigger, please, that you're pleading guilty to Counts

6 2, 3, 8, 12, and 13 of the Superseding Indictment,

7 correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So you pled guilty to five counts?

01:56:51 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Out of the 13. And you weren't charged with all

12 of the 13 but you pled to these five, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And so Count 1, for example, we can see sort of

01:57:04 15 at the bottom there is conspiracy to distribute

16 fentanyl, do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And, in fact, you did conspire to distribute

19 fentanyl, correct?

01:57:12 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You were packaging fentanyl and sending it out,

22 correct?

23 A. Of what we thought was Oxycodone, but yes.

24 Q. But some of the shipping labels actually

01:57:23 25 identified this as fentanyl, didn't they, or did you

1 not see those?

2 A. I think there were some on the order pages, um, I  
3 don't know much about medication of any kind so I  
4 assumed they were just the same thing.

01:57:35

5 Q. So you at least had some written information sent  
6 to you that you were distributing fentanyl, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can we go to the later counts, please. I  
9 appreciate it, Yvette. So it looks like the next

01:57:56

10 count you pled to is conspiracy to distribute  
11 Alprazolam. Did you know you were distributing  
12 Alprazolam?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And then possession of fentanyl with intent to  
15 distribute. Do you see that?

01:58:09

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And then let's look at the next -- use of the  
18 U.S. Mail in furtherance of a drug trafficking  
19 offense. Do you see that?

01:58:21

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And finally conspiracy to commit money  
22 laundering?

23 A. Correct, yes.

24 Q. Those are the counts you pled to?

01:58:28

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can we look at the -- is there an addendum on  
2 this. Can we look at the addendum please, that is  
3 the last page or two. There we go. Do you see this?

4 A. Yes.

01:58:43 5 Q. This is -- let's go back one page, I'm sorry, two  
6 pages. Do you see the signature there?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That's your signature, correct?

9 A. Correct.

01:58:54 10 Q. And that signature, because you weren't sure of  
11 the date earlier is June 7th of 2018. Does that  
12 refresh your recollection?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So that is when you signed this?

01:59:04 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. It looks like you had an attorney there that day?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. You probably signed it in this very building,  
19 didn't you?

01:59:11 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Maybe not this particular court but in front of a  
22 judge?

23 A. Yes.

01:59:16 24 Q. And said guilty and you read this over and what  
25 not?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. Yes?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can't do uh-huh, it makes her crazy. The

01:59:26 5 addendum, the next couple of pages, indicates that

6 you're to testify completely and truthfully and if

7 you do you're not going to be charged with other

8 offenses. Do you understand that?

9 A. Yes.

01:59:39 10 Q. And that is significant to you, isn't it?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. It is significant because those other offenses

13 could carry additional penalties?

14 A. Correct.

01:59:47 15 Q. Significant additional penalties, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You talked to your attorney about that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And I won't ask you what he told you, but you

01:59:54 20 understand that some of the other charges were much

21 more serious?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And it's only smart on your part and your

24 attorney's to avoid those, correct?

02:00:05 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I mean you're hoping you don't do any prison at  
2 all I assume?

3 A. I hope so, yes.

4 Q. And I think you answered this but let me ask you  
02:00:18 5 again. Since November 22nd of 2016, how much time  
6 have you done in custody?

7 A. Zero.

8 MR. SKORDAS: That's all I have, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Redirect, Mr. Stejskal?

02:00:33 10 MR. STEJSKAL: No, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. Since there is no  
12 redirect, there will be no re-cross. You may step  
13 down and you may be excused and we'll take our first  
14 break. Try to get back in in about 15 minutes.

02:00:46 15 THE CLERK: All rise, please.

16 (Jury left the courtroom.)

17 THE COURT: We'll be in recess. Thank you.

18 (Recess.)

19 (Whereupon, the trial continued but  
20 was not transcribed.)

21

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**REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE**

I, Laura W. Robinson, Certified Shorthand Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public within and for the County of Salt Lake, State of Utah, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place set forth herein and were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter transcribed into typewriting under my direction and supervision;

That the foregoing pages contain a true and correct transcription of my said shorthand notes so taken.

In witness whereof I have subscribed my name this 18th day of November, 2019.

-----  
Laura W. Robinson

RPR, FCRR, CSR, CP